

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) A method of making prefilled
2 syringes, the method comprising the steps of:

3 displacing a succession of syringes along a conveyor path
4 from a supply station successively through a marking station, a
5 filling station, and to a downstream packing station;

6 ~~filling each of the syringes with a predetermined dose~~
7 ~~of a medicament in the filling station;~~

8 permanently marking the syringes in the marking station
9 with machine-readable data identifying the medicament to be put in
10 the empty syringe at the filling station;

11 scanning the syringes downstream of the marking station
12 and upstream of the filling station and removing from the conveyor
13 path any syringe whose data is not readable;

14 filling each of the syringes with a predetermined dose of
15 a medicament in the filling station; and

16 scanning the syringes downstream of the marking filling
17 station and upstream of the packing station and removing from the
18 conveyor path any syringe whose data does not correspond to the
19 medicament filled into the syringe at the filling station.

1 2. (original) The method of making prefilled syringes
2 defined in claim 1 wherein the machine-readable data marked on the
3 syringes is redundant.

3 - 4. (canceled)

1 5. (original) The method of making prefilled syringes
2 defined in claim 1 wherein the markings are not readable under
3 normal light.

1 6. (original) The method of making prefilled syringes
2 defined in claim 1 wherein the markings are printed on the
3 syringes.

1 7. (original) The method of making prefilled syringes
2 defined in claim 1 wherein the markings are laser-inscribed on the
3 syringes.

1 8. (original) The method of making prefilled syringes
2 defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of
3 rotating the syringes about their axes during scanning of
4 the markings.

1 9. (original) The method of making prefilled syringes
2 defined in claim 8 wherein the scanning is effected from two
3 locations offset angularly with respect to the axis of the syringe
4 being scanned.

1 10. (original) The method of making prefilled syringes
2 defined in claim 8 wherein the syringes are rotated at an angular
3 speed coordinated with a frame rate of a scanning device effecting
4 the scanning.

11. (canceled)

1 12. (currently amended) An apparatus for making
2 prefilled syringes, the apparatus comprising:

3 means for displacing a succession of syringes along a
4 conveyor path from a supply station successively through a marking
5 station, a filling station, and to a downstream packing station;

6 means at the filling station for filling each of the
7 syringes with a predetermined dose of a medicament in the filling
8 station;

9 means along the path at the marking station upstream of
10 the filling station for permanently marking the syringes ~~in the~~
11 ~~marking station~~ with machine-readable data identifying the
12 medicament to be put in the empty syringe at the filling station;

13 means along the path downstream ~~[[o]]~~ of the filling
14 marking station and upstream of the filling station for scanning
15 the syringes ~~downstream of the marking station~~ and removing from
16 the conveyor path any syringe whose data is not readable; and

17 means along the path downstream of the filling station
18 and upstream of the packing station for removing from the conveyor
19 path any syringe whose data does not correspond to the medicament
20 filled into the syringe at the filling station.

1 13. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 12
2 wherein the means for scanning includes means for rotating the
3 syringe about their axes.

1 14. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 12
2 wherein the scanning means is formed as a separate removable
3 module.

1 15. (new) The method defined in claim 1, further
2 comprising the steps of:
3 loading the syringes into respective packages carrying
4 contents identification at the packing station; and
5 scanning the syringes downstream of the packing station
6 and removing from the conveyor path any package whose syringe's
7 data does not correspond to the medicament identified on the
8 respective package.

1 16. (new) The apparatus defined in claim 12, further
2 comprising:
3 means for loading the syringes into respective packages
4 carrying contents identification at the packing station; and
5 means downstream of the packing station for scanning the
6 syringes and removing from the conveyor path any package whose
7 syringe's data does not correspond to the medicament identified on
8 the respective package.